GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:283
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
SELF SUFFICIENCY FOR COMBATING BIOLOGICAL ATTACK
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is self-sufficient in the field of combating biological attack in view of the ongoing world wide terrorist activities;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have expended a substantial amount on the research activities relating to this; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. List of biological agents used as weapons, as prepared by Indian Council of Medical Researchwith relevant details, has been circulated to Health Secretary and Directors of Health Services of all States / U.T.s and Central Government hospitals advising precautionary steps. Expert groups have finalized guidelines to be issued in `CD Alert`, a magazine from National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD)NICD is also designated as nodal agency for tests of suspected anthrax samples.Do`s and Don`ts have already been published in the leading national dailies regarding anthrax and continuing medical education activities are being coordinated in the Central Government hospitals in Delhi to sensitize medical and paramedical personnel on biological terrorism.

(c) & (d) : Research and development for recombinant anthrax vaccine has been supported and the technology has been transferred to the industry. Programmes in the development of diagnostics and vaccines for major infectious diseases are also under implementation.